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Lieutenant Governor

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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108 Missouri lawmakers sign on supporting Lt. Governor Peter Kinder's letter to Obama *Missouri legislators agree Obama's 'Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students' is 'unconstitutional abuse of authority'*

JEFFERSON CITY — More than 100 Missouri state senators and representatives, including the leaders of both legislative chambers, have signed on in support of a letter Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder today sent to President Barack Obama. Lt. Gov. Kinder's letter expresses strong opposition to the recent "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students" from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to public schools across the nation, and asks President Obama to rescind the letter. The Obama Administration's Dear Colleague Letter attempts to dictate how Missouri public schools must run their facilities and programs to accommodate students who might claim transgender status.

The Missouri lawmakers joining Lt. Governor Kinder in asking President Obama to rescind the "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students" are:

Sen. Ron Richard, President Pro Tem of the Senate
Rep. Todd Richardson, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sen. Dan Brown
Sen. Mike Cunningham
Sen. Ed Emery
Sen. Dan Hegeman
Sen. Mike Kehoe
Sen. Will Kraus
Sen. Doug Libla
Sen. Brian Munzlinger
Sen. Bob Onder

Sen. Mike Parson
Sen. David Pearce
Sen. Jeanie Riddle
Sen. Gary Romine
Sen. David Sater
Sen. Dave Schatz
Sen. Kurt Schaefer
Sen. Eric Schmitt
Sen. Wayne Wallingford

Sen. Jay Wasson
Sen. Paul Wieland
Rep. Justin Alferman
Rep. Sonya Anderson
Rep. Allen Andrews
Rep. Kurt Bahr
Rep. Chuck Basye
Rep. Nathan Beard
Rep. Mike Bernskoetter

Rep. T.J. Berry	Rep. Tila Hubrecht	Rep. Don Phillips
Rep. Linda Black	Rep. Tom Hurst	Rep. Randy Pietzman
Rep. Jack Bondon	Rep. Jeffery Justus	Rep. Patricia Pike
Rep. Rick Brattin	Rep. Shelley Keeney	Rep. Dean Plocher
Rep. Cloria Brown	Taylor	Rep. Jeff Pogue
Rep. Wanda Brown	Rep. Mike Kelley	Rep. Craig Redmon
Rep. Eric Burlison	Rep. Bill Kidd	Rep. Holly Rehder
Rep. Jason Chipman	Rep. Nick King	Rep. Bill Reiboldt
Rep. Kathie Conway	Rep. Andrew Koenig	Rep. Tim Remole
Rep. Steve Cookson	Rep. Glen Kolkmeyer	Rep. Shawn Rhoads
Rep. Robert Cornejo	Rep. Bart Korman	Rep. Rebecca Roeber
Rep. Paul Curtman	Rep. Mike Lair	Rep. Don Rone
Rep. Charlie Davis	Rep. Bill Lant	Rep. Robert Ross
Rep. J. Eggleston	Rep. Mike Leara	Rep. Lyle Rowland
Rep. Kevin Engler	Rep. Warren Love	Rep. Dan Shaul
Rep. Keith English	Rep. Steve Lynch	Rep. Noel Shull
Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick	Rep. Kirk Mathews	Rep. Lindell Shumake
Rep. Paul Fitzwater	Rep. John McCaherty	Rep. Bryan Sencer
Rep. Travis Fitzwater	Rep. Andrew McDaniel	Rep. Chrissy Sommer
Rep. Lyndall Fraker	Rep. Joe Don McGaugh	Rep. Kathy Swan
Rep. Diane Franklin	Rep. Jeffrey Messenger	Rep. Rob Vescovo
Rep. Keith Frederick	Rep. Rocky Miller	Rep. Nate Walker
Rep. Elaine Gannon	Rep. Mike Moon	Rep. John Wiemann
Rep. Ron Hicks	Rep. Lynn Morris	Rep. Kenneth Wilson
Rep. Galen Higdon	Rep. Dave Muntzel	Rep. David Wood
Rep. Justin Hill	Rep. Jim Neely	Rep. Anne Zerr
Rep. Denny Hoskins	Rep. Mark Parkinson	

Here is the text of Lt. Governor Kinder's letter, a copy of which is attached to this release:

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my total opposition to the "Dear Colleague" letter of May 13, issued by your appointed leaders at the Department of Education and the Department of Justice, dictating how public schools must run their facilities and programs to accommodate students who claim transgender status.

The letter and its demands are an unconstitutional abuse of authority by your executive branch. It is a blatant attempt to change established law, which is a function reserved for the legislative branch by the Constitution. By threatening local school districts with the loss of federal funding, your administration is seizing local control from public schools while threatening the privacy rights of Missouri students. Further, the demands set forth in the letter directly violate the Constitution's 10th Amendment, which states that those powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people.

The Dear Colleague letter goes against the majority of federal and state court decisions on this issue, as well as the clear text of Title IX and its regulations, all of which allow school districts to address these delicate issues as they see fit, when and if they arise. The letter puts Missouri public schools in the unjust position of having to choose between either doing what they know is best for their particular student population or receiving federal funding. School districts that feel forced to follow the letter's decree in order to continue to receive funding will undoubtedly open

themselves up to huge liabilities and potential lawsuits for violating students' privacy rights and undermining parental authority rights.

Missouri schools must not be forced to comply with this extraconstitutional decree and the practical implications it would have on their operations and on their students. Please have the "Dear Colleague" letter of May 13 rescinded immediately. Its demands amount to a serious, unconstitutional infringement on the liberties and lives of the people of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Kinder
Lieutenant Governor of Missouri

The following members of the Missouri Legislature join me in asking that you rescind the "Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students":

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